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The World

New Scorecard for Arms Controllers

After months of infighting among conservatives, many of them vigorous critics of past regimes at the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, the White House finally made clear last week who would be in charge there.

Well, sort of. Eugene V. Rostow has been named director, but President Reagan added Edward L. Rowny, a retired lieutenant general, as special representative and chief negotiator for "arms control and disarmament negotiations." General Rowny will report to Mr. Rostow, but with influential hard-liner friends in the Senate such as Jesse Helms, Republican of North Carolina, and Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, he can swing some heavy weight. He said his authority was "an open question" that would have to be "sorted out" after his confirmation.

Senator Helms has other candidates for senior positions in the agency, but last week two of them — Michael Pillsbury and David S. Sullivan — were dismissed after extended service on the Administration's disarmament transition team. The reasons did not seem ideological; like Messrs. Rostow and Rowny (and the President, for that matter) Messrs. Pillsbury and Sullivan have strongly opposed the never-ratified nuclear weapons limitations treaty, SALT II. However, Mr. Pillsbury had upset some officials by failing to inform the State Department of his plans to visit Israel in connection with the Awacs surveillance planes controversy. When word reached Foggy Bottom, the trip was cancelled. At the Central Intelligence Agency, Mr. Sullivan is a well-remembered former employee who was asked to resign after he supplied secret documents to a Senator's aide.

However, with Senator Helms still supporting them, the prospects for Mr. Pillsbury and Mr. Sullivan were unclear. Last week, a Helms aide said that the Senator was putting a "hold" on Mr. Rostow's confirmation until "we know about Rostow's staff."